

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

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Economic Development Authority provides grant to buy supercomputer

Dec. 17, 2013 – Hampton’s Economic Development Authority has approved a \$200,000 grant to the National Institute of Aerospace to buy a high-speed computer cluster with almost 20 tera-FLOPS of computing power.

The new computer cluster will be located in the new Hampton Research and Science Park, and will provide an important economic development resource for area companies, researchers, and students. Some computer simulations that would take a month to execute on a high-end workstation, for example, could be performed in a matter of hours on the new computer.

The term FLOPS is used to describe how many multiplications a computer can execute in a second. A teraFLOPS is one trillion floating-point operations per second.

“This new computer cluster will allow NIA and new companies in our Peninsula Technology Incubator to expand their computation research capabilities and bring new jobs to the city,” said Douglas Stanley, President and Executive Director of the Institute.

“This grant will provide a unique computing resource for the City of Hampton and be one of the fastest computer systems in the entire Hampton Roads region. We are very grateful for the generous support of the City of Hampton EDA,” said Stanley.

“The EDA’s commitment to fund the acquisition of the computer cluster provides a value added resource to help the NIA and other businesses in the Research and Science Park grow beyond their current capabilities,” said Leonard Sledge, Hampton’s director of Economic Development.

“Hampton now has another asset that can be used to attract new and grow existing technology companies,” Sledge said.

Although the EDA is providing the \$200,000 grant to buy the new computer cluster, operating and maintenance costs will be carried by the Institute.

Access to the computer will be free for Hampton City Schools, the Governor’s School for Science and Technology at New Horizons Regional Education Center, and other educational entities in the city.

The National Institute of Aerospace is a non-profit research and graduate education facility located in the Hampton Roads Center business park. It conducts leading edge aerospace and atmospheric research and is partners with NASA Langley Research Center, the aerospace community and others.

For more information on the National Institute of Aerospace, go to www.nianet.org, or contact Harla Sherwood at 757-636-6300. To learn more about Hampton's Economic Development Office, go to www.hampton.gov/economicdevelopment.

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